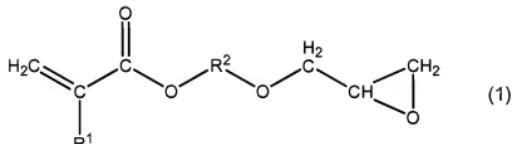


**Amendments to the Claims**

This is a complete listing of claims and supersedes all other listings:

1. (Currently amended) A photosensitive resin composition comprising  
a poly((meth)acrylic acid)-based water-soluble photo-sensitive resin (A) having an acid  
value of 170 mgKOH/g or more on a solid basis;  
the resin (A) being formed of a ((meth)acrylic acid)-based polymer in which a compound  
represented by formula (1):



[wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents H or Me; and R<sup>2</sup> represents a linear or branched C2-C10 alkylene group], has been added to portions of the carboxylic-carboxyl groups [of (meth)acrylic acid composing the ((meth)acrylic acid)-based polymer,

a photopolymerization initiator (B); and

water (C).

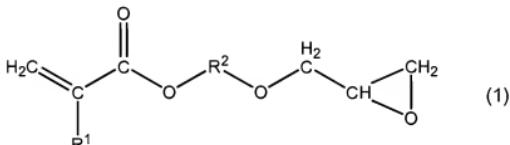
2. (Original) A photosensitive resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the carboxyl groups of the ((meth)acrylic acid)-based polymer to which the compound represented by formula (1) has not been added are at least partially neutralized with an alkali.

3. (Currently amended) A method for forming a hydrogel characterized by comprising subjecting a photosensitive resin composition as recited in claim 1 to photopolymerization.

4. (Currently amended) A hydrogel produced by causing subjecting a photosensitive resin composition to photopolymerize photopolymerization, the photosensitive resin composition comprising

a poly((meth)acrylic acid)-based water-soluble photo-sensitive resin (A) having an acid value of at least about 170 mgKOH/g on a solid basis;

the resin (A) being formed of a ((meth)acrylic acid)-based polymer in which a compound represented by formula (1):



[wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents H or Me; and R<sup>2</sup> represents a linear or branched C2-C10 alkylene group]  
has been added to portions of the carboxylic acid groups [of (meth)acrylic acid  
composing the ((meth)acrylic acid)-based polymer,

a photopolymerization initiator (B); and

water (C).

5. (Previously presented) A hydrogel according to claim 4, wherein the carboxyl groups of the ((meth)acrylic acid)-based polymer to which the compound represented by formula (1) has not been added are at least partially neutralized with alkali.